

STATE OF ARKANSAS



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Department
Of Career Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chain of Life Award Honors Living Kidney Donors

LITTLE ROCK – On March 14, the Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC) recognized 18 individuals with a *Chain of Life* award in the governor's conference room at the state capitol. The award is presented to individuals who have truly given the gift of life - a living kidney donation - to Arkansans in need of a transplant.

The AKDC is a special program of the Rehabilitation Services division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

In 2009, AKDC board member Bob Abbott, a founding member of the organization, recommended that the AKDC create an award to recognize individuals who provide living kidney donations. This award has become the *Chain of Life* award. This was the first year for the awards presentation since Act 268 of 2011 established the mechanism for the honor.

Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission 2012 Chain of Life Award Recipients

The following are the donors who were honored, along with their city of residence:

- Kay Anderson, Little Rock
- Thomas Andrews, Roseville, California
- Natasha Bentley, Enola
- Lindsey Bethea, Prattville, Alabama
- Frances Buchanan, Little Rock
- Leah E. Coy, Urbana, Ohio
- Jeannie Cross, Bryant
- Cynthia D. Daniel, Sulphur Springs, Texas
- Frances Griffith, West Fork
- Dina Horne, Spring Lake, Minnesota
- Darrin Johnson, Piggott

- Mary Morgan, Anaheim, California
- Daniel Oller, Hope
- Imara Ready, Little Rock
- Bobby E. Taylor, Atlanta, Texas
- Linda Tyler, Conway
- Betsy Watson, Newport
- Thelma Whitfield, Percy

The Arkansas Kidney Disease Commission (AKDC) is one of about 20 state run kidney programs nationally. The program provides assistance to Arkansans who have been diagnosed with end-stage renal disease requiring regular kidney dialysis treatments or who have received kidney transplants. Primary services provided include payment for a limited number of prescription drugs and pre-transplant dental services.

During state fiscal year 2011, the AKDC provided services to 1175 individuals. It is estimated there are approximately 250 Arkansans on a kidney transplant waiting list and more than 80,000 nationally.

The Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) has the mission of providing leadership and contributing resources to serve the diverse and changing career educational needs of Arkansas youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities.



PHOTO: Gov. Mike Beebe, along with Rep. Linda Tyler and Bob Abbot, congratulated the Chain of Life honorees and paused for a photo at the awards ceremony. Pictured above, left to right, are: Natasha Bentley, Betsy Watson, Cynthia D. Daniel, Jeannie Cross, Rep. Linda Tyler, Gov. Mike Beebe, Frances Griffith, Kay Anderson, Darrin Johnson, Imara Ready and Bobby Taylor.

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